Frequency and capacity of Nagpur-Gaya Express

3765. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nagpur-Gaya Express has started;

(b) if so, its frequency;

(c) by when will the frequency be increased; and

(d) the details of its present capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Weekly.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) 1451/1452 Nagpur-Gaya Express, a weekly train has been introduced with effect from 14.4.97 and a few days run of these trains has revealed that the existing accommodation is not being utilised fully.

Purchase of engines from multinational companies

3766. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some engines have been purchased from ABB company or any other multinational recently;

(b) whether any complaints have been received about this deal;

(c) the details of this deal; and

(d) the steps taken to alleviate and refute the allegations of mishandling of the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No engine have been purchased from ABB recently, however, an order was placed on 19.10.95 on M/s General Motors Corporation/USA for supply of 21 Nos 4000 HP 1676 mm gauge Diesel Electric Locomotives for freight haulage.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Free-on-Board value of the contract is US $ 41.77 million. The delivery shedule of the locomotives is from February, 1998 to June, 1998. The deal also includes Transfer of Technology for series production at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, at an extra cost of US $ 17.5 million.

(d) Does not arise.

Additional bogies for Ratnachal Express

3767. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional bogies are proposed to be attached to Ratnachal Express in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that only one AC Chair Car is attached to this train; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two additional second class coaches are being provided from July 1997.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) One additional AC Chair Car was provided on this train but had to be withdrawn w.e.f. 15.02.97 due to poor patronisation and now this coach is being provided on 2711/2712 Pinakini Express.